

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-03 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-03 INR-10

LAB-01 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02

NSC-07 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14 USIA-04 OMB-01 CIEP-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5839

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 7377

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, GR

SUBJECT: LABOR: TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATION OF GENERAL  
CONFEDERATION OF GREEK WORKERS (GSEE) ASSUMES  
OFFICE

REF: ATHENS 6805

1. A TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATION (THIRTY-FIVE MEMBERS) OF  
THE GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF GREEK WORKERS (GSEE) ASSUMED  
OFFICE OCTOBER 4 IN A BUSINESS-LIKE CEREMONY IN DOWNTOWN  
OFFICE OF GSEE HEADQUARTERS WHERE OUTGOING BOARD TURNED  
OVER RELEVANT BOOKS, ACCOUNTS AND DOCUMENTS TO NEW  
ADMINISTRATION. ON FOLLOWING DAY, MINISTER OF LABOR  
LASKARIS VISITED GSEE OFFICES AND GREETED NEW BOARD IN  
A MORE CEREMONIAL ATMOSPHERE.

4. OLD ADMINISTRATION WAS FORCED OUT OF OFFICE AS  
RESULT OF LEGISLATIVE DECREE DATED SEPTEMBER 14 WHICH  
MANDATED DISSOLUTION ADMINISTRATIVE BOARDS, NOT ONLY OF  
NATION'S TOP CONFEDERATION (I.E. GSEE), BUT ALSO OF ALL  
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AFFILIATED FEDERATIONS AND LABOR CENTERS (SEE REFTEL).

PRIME MOVER BEHIND THIS LEGISLATIVE DECREE WAS MINISTER OF LABOR LASKARIS. PM CARAMANLIS REPORTEDLY SUPPORTED LASKARIS IN THIS ENDEAVOR IN ORDER TO BE RESPONSIVE TO PRESSURES FROM MANY SECTORS OF POPULACE FOR "PURGING, CLEANSING AND DEJUNTIZATION" OF NATION'S "APPOINTED" OFFICIALS.

3. PM CARAMANLIS MET WITH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF NEW TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATION ON OCTOBER 7. IN HIS REMARKS, PM STRESSED THAT TEMPORARY GSEE LEADERSHIP UNDERTAKING HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY IN ITS TASK OF LAYING FOUNDATIONS OF A SOUND LABOR MOVEMENT. HE STATED THAT "IN THE PAST" THE LABOR MOVEMENT DID NOT FUNCTION NORMALLY AND MET THE EXPECTATIONS NEITHER OF THE STATE NOR OF THE LABORING CLASS. PM ASSERTED THAT LABOR MOVEMENT WAS "AN EXTENSION OF DEMOCRACY" AND STIPULATED THAT IN FACT "THERE CANNOT BE A DEMOCRACY WITHOUT A FREE LABOR MOVEMENT." PM, REMINISCING THAT HE HAD BEGUN HIS POLITICAL CAREER AS MINISTER OF LABOR, PLEDGED TO LABOR REPRESENTATIVES HIS INTEREST, CONCERN AND UNDERSTANDING.

4. COMMENT: TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATION WHICH TOOK OFFICE OCTOBER 4 WILL CONTINUE IN POWER UNTIL THREE MONTHS (AT LATEST) AFTER NOVEMBER 17 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. WHILE LESS PUBLICITY GIVEN TO INSTALLATION OF NEW ADMINISTRATIONS OF GSEE-AFFILIATED FEDERATIONS AND LABOR CENTERS, THESE BODIES TOO HAVE UNDERGONE COMPLETE MEMBERSHIP CHANGES. ADDITIONALLY, IN A "LATE ACTION", A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE DECREE WAS ENACTED WITHIN PAST WEEK (THOUGH NOT YET OFFICIALLY GAZETTED) WHICH STIPULATES THAT SEAMEN'S FEDERATION (ORIGINALLY EXEMPTED FROM PROVISIONS OF SEPTEMBER 14 LEGISLATIVE DECREE), WOULD NOW BE SUBJECT TO SAME STRICTURES. ACCORDINGLY, SOTIRIOS KATSAROS, SECRETARY GENERAL OF SEAMEN'S FEDERATION, WILL BE OUSTED FROM OFFICE WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS. GOVERNMENT ACTION THROUGH SEPT 14 LEGISLATIVE DECREE HAS CAUSED WIDESPREAD DISCONTENT AND ANGER AMONG FORMER OFFICIALS OF BOARDS OF GSEE, FEDERATIONS AND LABOR CENTERS--PROMPTED TO LARGE DEGREE BY ALLEGATIONS THAT THOSE WHO HELD OFFICE UNDER MILITARY REGIME

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WERE "JUNTA SUPPORTERS." CHIEF SPOKESMAN FOR FORMER LABOR OFFICIALS INSTEAD DESCRIBE THEMSELVES AS HAVING BEEN "NATIONALISTS" AND MANY NOW EXPECT TO TAKE ACTIVE ROLE IN SUPPORT OF CANDIDATES IN NOVEMBER 17 ELECTIONS WHO BOTH SHARE THEIR NATIONALIST FEELINGS AND AT SAME TIME ARE OPPOSED TO WHAT THEY SEE AS "LEFTWARD DRIFT" OF PM CARAMANLIS.

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